IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as indicated below. The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for use in a distributed management framework comprising a plurality of applications, wherein each of the plurality of applications is configured to make function calls to standard programming functions, the method comprising:

inserting a respective agent into each of the plurality of applications upon a launch of each of the plurality of applications;

using the agents to intercept the function calls to the standard programming functions made by each of the plurality of applications, wherein each of the standard programming functions comprises implementation program code which is located external to each of the plurality of applications calling the standard programming functions;

routing the function calls to alternative implementations of the standard programming functions, wherein each of the alternative implementations of the standard programming functions is internal to a respective each of the plurality of applications calling the standard programming functions;

executing one of the alternative implementations of the standard programming functions inside an application process of one of the plurality of applications instead of executing the implementation program code of the corresponding standard programming function, wherein the executed one of the alternative implementations of the standard programming functions replaces functionality of the corresponding standard programming function; and

using the alternative implementations of the standard programming functions to collect availability metrics for each of the plurality of applications.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1,

wherein the standard programming functions comprise memory functions.

3.   (Original) The method of claim 1,

wherein the intercepting the function calls comprises intercepting the function calls in a production environment.

4.   (Canceled)

5.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

modifying program code of at least one of the plurality of applications to enable the intercepting the function calls to the standard programming functions.

6.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

using the availability metrics for performance management of each of the plurality of applications in the distributed management framework.

7.   (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

configuring the distributed management framework to monitor a subset of the plurality of applications.

8.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

aggregating the availability metrics for each of the plurality of applications at a console for performance management.

9.   (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium comprising program instructions for use in a distributed management framework comprising a plurality of applications, wherein each of the plurality of applications is configured to make function calls to standard programming functions, wherein the program instructions are computer-executable to implement:

inserting a respective agent into each of the plurality of applications upon a launch of each of the plurality of applications;

using the agents to intercept the function calls to the standard programming functions made by each of the plurality of applications, wherein each of the standard programming functions comprises implementation program code which is located external to each of the plurality of applications calling the standard programming functions;

routing the function calls to alternative implementations of the standard programming functions, wherein each of the alternative implementations of the standard programming functions is internal to a respective each of the plurality of applications calling the standard programming functions;

executing one of the alternative implementations of the standard programming functions inside an application process of one of the plurality of applications instead of executing the implementation program code of the corresponding standard programming function, wherein the executed one of the alternative implementations of the standard programming functions replaces functionality of the corresponding standard programming function; and

using the alternative implementations of the standard programming functions to collect availability metrics for each of the plurality of applications.

10. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 9, wherein the intercepting the function calls comprises intercepting the function calls in a production environment.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 9, wherein the program instructions are further computer-executable to implement:

modifying program code of at least one of the plurality of applications to enable the intercepting the function calls to the standard programming functions.

13.   (Previously Presented)   The computer-readable storage medium of claim 9, wherein the program instructions are further computer-executable to implement:

aggregating the availability metrics for each of the plurality of applications at a console for performance management.

14.   (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

at least one processor; and

at least one memory coupled to the at least one processor, wherein the at least one memory stores program instructions that are executable by the at least one processor to:

insert a respective agent into each of the plurality of applications upon a launch of each of the plurality of applications;

use the agents to intercept one or more function calls to one or more standard programming functions made by each of the plurality of applications, wherein each of the one or more standard programming functions comprises implementation program code which is located external to each of the plurality of applications calling the one or more standard programming functions;

route the function calls to alternative implementations of the one or more standard programming functions, wherein each of the alternative implementations of the one or more standard programming functions is internal to a respective each of the plurality of applications calling the one or more standard programming functions; and

perform one of the alternative implementations of the standard programming functions inside an application process of one of the plurality of applications instead of executing the implementation program code of the corresponding standard programming function, wherein the performed one of the alternative implementation of the standard programming functions replaces

functionality of the corresponding standard programming function; and

use the alternative implementations of the one or more standard programming functions to collect availability metrics for each of the plurality of applications.

15.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 14,

wherein the function calls are intercepted in a production environment.

16.   (Canceled)

17.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 14, wherein the program instructions are further executable by the at least one processor to:

modify program code of at least one of the plurality of applications to enable the interception of the function calls to the standard programming functions.

18.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 14, wherein the program instructions are further executable by the at least one processor to:

aggregate the availability metrics for each of the plurality of applications at a console for performance management.

19.   (Currently Amended) A system for use in a distributed management framework comprising a plurality of applications, wherein each of the plurality of applications is configured to make function calls to standard programming functions, the system comprising:

means for inserting a respective agent into each of the plurality of applications upon a launch of each of the plurality of applications;

means for using the agents to intercept the function calls to the standard programming functions made by each of the plurality of applications, wherein each of the standard programming functions comprises

implementation program code which is located external to each of the plurality of applications calling the standard programming functions;

means for routing the function calls to alternative implementations of the standard programming functions, wherein each of the alternative implementations of the standard programming functions is internal to a respective each of the plurality of applications calling the standard programming functions;

means for executing one of the alternative implementations of the standard programming functions inside an application process of one of the plurality of applications instead of executing the implementation program code of the corresponding standard programming function, wherein the executed one of the alternative implementations of the standard programming functions replaces functionality of the corresponding standard programming function; and

means for using the alternative implementations of the standard programming functions to collect availability metrics for each of the plurality of applications.

20.-28. (Canceled)